



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2013**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2013
C. L. Hoover Opera House
Junction City, KS 66441**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Mayor; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **John Ray**, Abilene City Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Shane Tiffany**, Alta Vista Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; and **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor.

Present from the Greater Regional Council Membership: *No additional members present.*

Present from Staff Support: **Gary Stith AICP**, Interim Executive Director; **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager; and **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner.

Guests: **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County EcoDev Director; **Cheryl Beatty**, Junction City Interim City Manager; **Patty Clark**, USDA Rural Development State Director; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Phillip Fishburn**, MAP Technical Assistant; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation; **Ronald Kabat**, City of Chapman Councilman; **Julie Roller**, Pottawatomie County EcoDevo Associate; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Angie Schwerdtfeger**, TCT Public Relations Officer; and **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director.

MEETING START TIME:

- Ben Bennett, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

WELCOME:

- President Bennett welcomed the board, staff and guests to the C. L. Hoover Opera House and Junction City/Geary County.

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- The meeting venue is the oldest building in the area and has been rebuilt twice. There was \$7M raised and utilized to renovate the facility; it will become a for-profit organization in the near future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member David Shover motioned for approval of the minutes from June 28, 2013. Member Robert Boyd seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for approval of the financial report. Member/FHRC Treasurer Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

FUNDING AND PROJECT SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL TOWNS & RURAL PLACES (MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS):

- Philip Fishburn, Kansas MAP Technical Assistant Provider, provided an overview of the Midwest Assistance Programs.
- The mission of MAP is “to improve the quality of life in rural communities” and it was founded in 1979. Its headquarters is located in Marysville, MO. Service areas include the northern plain states.
- Funding sources for the rural community assistance partnerships include USDA Rural Development, EDA and HUD.
- Assessment programs help communities to identify water and wastewater programs.
- The two roles that MAP participates in are as follows: project development coordinator/ technical advisor or community and governance.
- Some of the technical assistance services include: evaluating technical options/solutions; guidance on engineer selection process; completion of income surveys; assistance with completing funding applications; training on overseeing construction management; and assistance with completing emergency response plans, asset management plans or applying for a Public Water Permit (Section 2 of KDHE Application).
- There are a number of downloadable RCAP Guides.
- MAP Website: <http://www.map-inc.org/index.html>

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND REVOLVING LOANS FUNDS:

- Bob Cole, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Director, and Julie Roller, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation Associate, gave a brief presentation on community foundation and revolving loan funding.
- Revolving Loan Funds help communities to meet compliance requirements for public drinking water and wastewater requirements.

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- CRG Loan Funds can be utilized for the following: pre-development loans (i.e. hiring engineers); interim financing for small projects; construction loans/system improvements and equipment loans. Some of the requirements for approval are: local unit of government, serve low-income customers and ability to repay loan. There is a 2-3 week approval process.
- The current loan interest rate is 3.75%
- There was correspondence passed out to the board, which contains additional information about community foundation/revolving loan funds.

KANSAS USDA:

- Patty Clark, USDA Rural Development Regional Director, provided a brief overview to the board, staff and guests about things the agency has been involved with throughout the state.
- The USDA helped to fund E-Communities (Entrepreneurship Communities). It is a locally driven and locally managed loan program.
- Some of the local, regional USDA financed projects include the Bartlett Hotel (Junction City, KS), Self-Help Housing Program (Junction City) and Housing Repair/Direct Loans/Water & Sewage/Local Grocery Store (Onaga, KS). There are water projects in Strong City, KS and Cottonwood Falls, KS that will be funded through the USDA.
- The agency is looking to pull in partners (local communities) to tap into different funding programs.
- Clark encouraged the FHRC to develop a strategy for the region in order to bring future funding to projects. She also talked about how economic development is a broad spectrum and should not be limited in its scope.
- The 2012 USDA Rural Development Kansas Annual Report entitled "Investing in the Future of Rural Communities" was passed out to the board. Some of the items included were success stories, business & cooperative programs and contact information for the USDA Rural Development state offices.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- President Ben Bennett informed that board that the state representatives are keen to their respective community needs. They will need support and direction from the local communities.
- The plan is to invite the state representatives to future meetings from now until January 2014.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander, was not in attendance at the meeting.

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GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director, informed the board that a watch is being kept on the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget.
- The Department of Defense (DOD) is looking to see if furlough days can be reduced this year.
- There will be a reduction in the DOD civilian workforce due to the sequestration.
- The 4th Brigade will be facing a reduction of about 1500 troops. The first round will occur in 2014 and the second round in 2015.
- Shared services are being strongly encouraged. The two Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs) currently underway are equipment sharing and sharing of training.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT & FHRC BOARD RETREAT:

- Gary Stith, Interim Executive Director, informed the board that Scott Moore voluntarily vacated his position due to getting married and relocation plans. An employment ad has been placed in order to attract qualified applicants and start the hiring process.
- The Annual Board Retreat will be held at the Konza Prairie Biological Research Meeting Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The main focuses will be strategic planning and identifying short-term/long-term goals.
- Annual audit will begin on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, conducted by Melanie Tuttle of Reese & Novelly.
- Travel Demand Model RFPs will be sent out on Monday, August 19, 2013.
- Flint Hills Frontiers Summer Summit was held on July 10, 2013 in Emporia, KS. It was a very successful event and there is interest in Emporia and Lyon County about becoming a part of the FHEDD and even discussion of joining the FHRC.
- The Flint Hills Economic Development District Working Group will meet on Tuesday, August 13 & Wednesday, August 14 at the Discovery Center. Time for both meetings, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 2014 Leadership Retreat will be held January 17 & 18. Information forthcoming.
- Jeff Adams will be receiving training on the EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists International) Site Tool in October.
- It is important to note that funding will be a main focus for the FHRC because the OEA Grant ends August 2013 and the HUD Grant ends in 2015.

AMENDMENT TO FHRC BYLAWS:

- In Section 8.2. Executive Committee, the following proposed amendment has been suggested as follows: "(a) There shall be an executive committee composed of **seven (7)** persons, the president, the vice-president, the treasurer, the secretary, and **two (2)** at-large member to be elected by the board of directors from its numbers at such time it elects officers of the Council each year. **The immediate past president shall also serve on the executive committee.**

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- Member Rich Jankovich motioned for the proposed amendment to the FHRC Bylaws to be approved as written. Member David Shover seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- Member MarySue Roller informed that board that it is important to encourage their respective communities to be aware and voice their opinion about the Westar Energy residential rate increases.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

- Member Phil Weishaar motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Member Vern Hay seconded. Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 11:36 a.m.